

JUL 0 7 2006

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/007669.P1/PPC/ECP/CKIM

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated March 7, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month to expire on July 7, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-25 and 29-32 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1, 2, 4-25, and 29-32 are rejected and claim 3 is objected to by the Examiner. Applicants propose canceling claims 1, 2, 4-25, and 29-32 without prejudice. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but as stated by the Examiner would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is amended to recite the original claim in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claim 3.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-17, 19-25 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dordi et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,267,853) in view of Sendai et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,518). Claims 7, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dordi* in view of *Sendai*, and further in view of Woodruff et al (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0032788). Applicants have canceled claims 1-2, 4-25, and 29-32. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.



JUL 0 7 2006

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/007669.P1/PPC/ECP/CKIM

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith M. Tackett

Registration No. 32,008

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.

3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500

Houston, TX 77056

Telephone: (713) 623-4844 Facsimile: (713) 623-4846

Attorney for Applicant(s)